

City Wrestler to Be in Olympic Finals

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George Vico Charges City's Youth Being Pushed Around



METER REPAIR—It took the city a while to find a competent repairman like Wray Wilson to take care of huge backlog of ailing

and sabotaged parking meters. His job may be short-lived if City Council still feels, after election, that the meters should go.

Our Worst Public Relations

With all the ingenuity that is brought to bear on creating good will for Torrance, it seems worse than senseless to continue wasting money to buy bad public relations.

Yet that is what the city will continue to do, at least till after election time. The aggravation caused by the ranks and files of parking meters downtown has caused the merchants all kinds of money and their dwindling customers all kinds of ulcers.

The melancholy Meterettes are no help, either. They putulantly putter about their appointed rounds with all the grace and cheer of a baseball umpire.

The era of usefulness is long gone for the parking meters. Yet there they stand, relics of a past age, like abandoned hitching posts. Most Torrance drivers have learned to avoid them; there is plenty of free parking. The stranger is trapped by the meters, unaware of the free space.

The city has had to hire a full-time repairman to work on the backlog of hundreds of damaged meters, many of them sabotaged by resentful residents. Torrance is paying a terrible price for all the bad will it is buying.

Although the girl guardians of this hallowed parking ground are under orders to be sweet, tractable, and at all times give the benefit of the doubt, the orders rarely are put into practice.

The most consolation a harassed shopper may get is, "I got a job to do." The ticket stays.

The shopper doesn't stay. She—or he—goes elsewhere.

This is causing screams of agony from the merchants, rivalled only by those of a woman who last week stopped traffic for a block in all directions.

People ran from stores, thinking a band of kidnapers had descended upon the city. The woman, an over-parked downtown customer, was howling blue blazes. She had had it with parking meters, she roared, and with downtown, and the whole city government; she went on at considerable length.

The fact that one woman flipped is not significant. But her outburst is indicative of what the meter situation is doing to people. Parking meters have come to be a costly, wasteful, useless annoyance.

Last week Nick Drale moved to eliminate the annoyance; he had the backing of virtually the entire City Council. A substitute motion tabled the death blow till after election time, indicating a feeling this might make the city too happy with Mr. Drale and give him too many votes.

If this attitude continues till April 12, no councilman will dare introduce legislation of any worth for another two weeks.

Meanwhile the parking meters keep grabbing, the people keep crabbing, and the city's valuable sales-tax dollars are slipping away.



HOPE FOR OLYMPICS—George Vico, chairman, Chamber of Commerce sports and youth committee, checks in money to send Torrance wrestler to Olympic finals with Betty Baker.

Torrance Wrestling Champ Will Go Into Olympic Finals

Stuart Buckalew, Torrance's first strong contender for an Olympic Games berth since Louis Zamperini qualified in 1938, was assured expenses to Ames, Iowa, to participate in the Olympic finals by action of directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President J. H. Paget said Buckalew qualified for the finals in Ames by winning first place in the district wrestling tryouts in the 147½-pound class but that the regionals provide no money for the trip east.

The Olympic wrestling tryouts are slated for April 18-21.

Leading the drive for funds was the downtown Torrance Sports Shop, owner, Ben Smith,

who told the chamber of the importance of Buckalew's trip to the finals. If Buckalew qualifies at Ames, he will represent the United States in Rome this summer.

Buckalew, a graduate of Torrance High School and a student at El Camino College, has gained the reputation as the greatest wrestler this area has ever produced.

Paget said service clubs and other interested individuals or groups can assist the chamber in sponsoring Buckalew by sending donations to the chamber's sports and youth committee, George Vico, chairman, 1511 Cravens Ave.

Says Places for Organized Play Lacking

Council Candidate's Ability to Accomplish Fast Results Cited

George Vico, City Council candidate, today charged Torrance youth is being pushed around by city government, which has no system to provide for all the recreational needs of young people.

Vico, considered a leading contender in the election next week, has a reputation for getting things done on his own. He has the connections to cut through red tape and go direct to the source of the difficulty and correct it.

When the Little League was denied use of Paradise Park, Vico prevailed upon his friend, Ben Kazarian, to donate \$5000 in labor and equipment to fill and level Entradero sump and provide space for 10 Little League fields.

When the first All-American City football banquet was staged for the first time last year, Vico organized and brought talent from the Los Angeles Rams to the event.

He has taken busloads of children to Dodger games in Los Angeles.

Vico also expressed concern over new residents, such as those in the Southwood developments, who are at loss for place of organized play.

He indicated that if he wins his seat on the council he will make a major project out of seeing to it that youth comes first and that the children of Torrance have adequate and well-kept play areas at all times.

Meter Removal Demanded by Fleetwood

Thirvin D. Fleetwood, City Council candidate, today demanded removal of downtown parking meters, terming them unarmored bandits that rob the people who are parking on their own streets.

He said the meters constitute double taxation.

Fleetwood also inquired, "Who put in the meters?" He said the present City Council must take the blame for the inconvenience and imposition they have caused.

He also pledged he would devote all his efforts to solving the problems faced in every neighborhood in the city. He said bureaucracy is growing in all levels of government and that care must be exercised here in order that we do not wind up with all chiefs and no Indians.

City Accepts Sidewalk Gift

Sidewalks installed in Los Arboles Park by the South Torrance Lions Club have been accepted officially by the City Council.

The club poured more than 2100 linear feet of cement last week prior to planting of trees donated by garden clubs in the area.

Office Hours Extended

The Torrance Airport office now will be open weekends, the Airport Commission was told last week by its president, Tom Abrams.



HONORED—Jerry Scharfman, city director of finance, shows copy of certificate from Municipal Officers' Finance Association, declaring annual report conforms to group's standards.

State Juvenile Agency Names Lt Rethwisch

Lt. Gus Rethwisch, head of the police juvenile division, last week was elected a vice president of the Delinquency Control Institute of the USC Alumni Association.

The election took place at the annual convention of the State Juvenile Officers' Association in Monterey.

Principal speaker was Thomas J. Cahill, chief of police, San Francisco. About 500 members and guests attended.

Panels, seminars, and lectures were arranged by city, state, and county agencies, and the event was covered nationally by television and news services.

The group is composed of Northern, Central, and Southern California Juvenile Officers' Associations.

NEW NUMBER FOR PRESS

New telephone number for The Torrance Press, since the paper's move to 3238 Sepulveda Blvd., is DA 5-1515.

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SCHOOL NAMESAKE—Hamilton Elementary School recently was presented a picture of Alexander Hamilton. The picture was painted by the wife of the principal of Jefferson

Elementary School, Mrs. George Marich, who also painted a picture of Jefferson for that school. Admiring gift are Carol Scoville, Principal Dale Wickstrum, Jim Ryan, Gæne Barnett.

National Realtor Week Starts Today